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Cc: Owens, Kim[Owens.Kim@epa.gov]; Nogi, Jill[nogi.jill@epa.gov]; Shaw, Hanh[Shaw.Hanh@epa.gov]; Bray, Dave[Bray.Dave@epa.gov]; Fordham, Tami[Fordham.Tami@epa.gov]; Soderlund, Dianne[Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov]; Allnutt, David[Allnutt.David@epa.gov]
From: Jen, Mark
Sent: Fri 8/4/2017 5:50:24 PM
Subject: DONLIN GOLD PROJECT - PFEIS Review - EPA Comments - Responses Table Uploaded

We will be compiling two deliverables to provide the Corps upon completion of our review of the Donlin Gold Project Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement (PFEIS):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| (1) PFEIS DONLIN EPA Comments Table | - due date: Wednesday, August 30. |
| (2) DEIS DONLIN EPA Comments - Responses Table | - due date: Wednesday, September 6 |

Both tables are loaded onto the SharePoint Site. Let me know if you have any problems finding them.

For those of you involved with the review of the Draft EIS, the *DEIS DONLIN EPA Comments – Response Table* includes your comments that were submitted to the Corps back at the end of May 2016. I incorporated the responses that were developed in the Comment Analysis Report (Appendix X). In some instances, the public comments were consolidated and summarized, so the responses may not completely address the comment.

Please go through and find your comments and review the responses. If the response adequately addresses your comment, then mark “Yes” in the box identified as “ACCEPT.” in the row below the comment/response. If the response is not adequate, then provide your reason(s) in the box marked “NO:” and recommend what is needed to be done to adequately address your comment. An example is provided on the first two rows of the Table. Let me know if you have any questions on reviewing the EPA Comment – Response Table.

The following EPA reviewers were involved with the Draft EIS: Cindi, Lon, Chris, Running Grass, and Matt (working with Kerry Anne and Brent). Other reviewers have either retired or are no longer working on this project. I would appreciate if the appropriate Subject Matter Expert could review the responses to comments provided by those folks who are no longer working on this project.

Lee and/or Ted – can you review the responses to comments provided by Lorraine Edmonds (LE) on groundwater hydrogeology?
Lon – can you review the responses to comments provided by Joe Sarcone (JS) in the Human Health section and Cumulative Effects?
Matt – can you review the responses to comments provided by Kerry Anne (KW) and Brent (BT) for wetlands and other mine related comments?

In addition, comments from the EPA CAA Section 309 Cover Letter and Enclosure 1 (May 31, 2016) were incorporated into the DEIS DONLIN - EPA Comment Table when it was submitted to the Corps. Please review those responses to the comments that correspond to your program/technical area of expertise and provide a response in the Table.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

SAVE THE DATE: Management Briefing - Wednesday, August 23 at 10:30 am to 11:30 am ADT

Lee has scheduled this management briefing (Unit Managers and Office Directors), so I am taking advantage of this opportunity to request that you provide your substantive program/technical comments/concerns regarding the Donlin Gold PFEIS to management. Let me know your availability and we can add you to the meeting invitation. I will pull together an agenda prior to the meeting.

Thanks and have a great weekend.

Mark

From: Jen, Mark

Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 11:23 AM

To: Matthew LaCroix <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>; Thiesing, Mary <thiesing.mary@epa.gov>; Godsey, Cindi <Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov>; Eckley, Chris <Eckley.Chris@epa.gov>; Kissinger, Lon <Kissinger.Lon@epa.gov>; Thomas, Lee <Thomas.Lee@epa.gov>; Zell, Christopher <zell.christopher@epa.gov>; McAlpine, Jay <McAlpine.Jay@epa.gov>; Pepple, Karl <Pepple.Karl@epa.gov>; Grass, Running <Grass.Running@epa.gov>; Repasky, Ted <repasky.ted@epa.gov>

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Subject: DONLIN GOLD PROJECT - PFEIS Review - All Documents Uploaded to SharePoint

I wanted to let you know that all the PFEIS documents have been received and uploaded to our SharePoint Site. These documents include:

1. Final Table of Contents
2. Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis
 - Section 3.19 Environmental Justice
 - Section 3.21 Subsistence
 - Section 3.22 Human Health
3. Appendix AB: Focused Risk Assessment

In addition, I am working on the Response to EPA's Comments on the Draft EIS. The Corps prepared in Appendix X the Comment Analysis Report (CAR), which includes all the public comments and their responses. I am going through and extracting the responses to EPA's comments and including them to the EPA Comment Table for the Draft EIS. I would appreciate those of you who provided comments on the DEIS to go through this document to determine if the response was acceptable. If not, then please provide your feedback on how to modify the response so that it addresses your comment appropriately. I am hoping to get this completed and sent out early this week.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Mark

From: Jen, Mark

Sent: Friday, July 28, 2017 10:50 AM

To: Matthew LaCroix <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>; Thiesing, Mary <thiesing.mary@epa.gov>; Godsey, Cindi <Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov>; Eckley, Chris <Eckley.Chris@epa.gov>; Kissinger, Lon <Kissinger.Lon@epa.gov>; Thomas, Lee <Thomas.Lee@epa.gov>; Zell, Christopher <zell.christopher@epa.gov>; McAlpine, Jay <McAlpine.Jay@epa.gov>; Pepple, Karl <Pepple.Karl@epa.gov>; Grass, Running <Grass.Running@epa.gov>; Repasky, Ted <repasky.ted@epa.gov>

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Subject: DONLIN GOLD PROJECT - PFEIS Review - Comments due August 30.

Happy Friday!

I have heard from a number of you regarding what happens to your comments after completing the EPA comment table.

My goal is to review every comment and, when appropriate, make any minor changes, edits, etc. in "Tracked Changes" so that you can see what changes were made, if any. After I have done that, I will send you an email to request your review of the changes.

If you do not have any concerns, please reply to my email indicating so. However, if you have concerns with how your comment(s) were changed, please give me a call ASAP! and we can go over them together via the SharePoint Site, which allows for multiple reviewers in the document at one time.

As soon as you have completed your review, please send me an email. If you can complete your review prior to August 30, I can conduct the review sooner and give you feedback sooner.

My goal is to have my review of all the comments completed by COB Thursday, August 31. There is a Federal holiday the following Monday, so I will have to make the cut off for your concurrence by COB Tuesday, September 5.

ORC will need to conduct a concurrent review before providing all comments for management review and concurrence by the Corps' deadline – Monday, September 11 (Patriot Day).

I am very encouraged by everyone's active review of the Donlin Gold Project Preliminary Final EIS.

Thanks again for all your hard work!

Enjoy your weekend!

Mark

From: Jen, Mark

Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 4:31 PM

To: Matthew LaCroix <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>; Thiesing, Mary <thiesing.mary@epa.gov>; Godsey, Cindi <Godsey.Cindi@epa.gov>; Eckley, Chris <Eckley.Chris@epa.gov>; Kissinger, Lon <Kissinger.Lon@epa.gov>; Thomas, Lee <Thomas.Lee@epa.gov>; Zell, Christopher <zell.christopher@epa.gov>; McAlpine, Jay <McAlpine.Jay@epa.gov>; Pepple, Karl <Pepple.Karl@epa.gov>; Grass, Running <Grass.Running@epa.gov>; Jen, Mark <Jen.Mark@epa.gov>

Cc: Owens, Kim <Owens.Kim@epa.gov>; Nogi, Jill <nogi.jill@epa.gov>; Bray, Dave <Bray.Dave@epa.gov>; Fordham, Tami <Fordham.Tami@epa.gov>; Soderlund, Dianne <Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov>; Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>

Subject: DONLIN GOLD PROJECT - PFEIS Review - Documents Uploaded to SharePoint Site - Comments due August 30.

Documents for the Donlin Gold Project PFEIS are now uploaded to the EPA SharePoint Site. Click on the link below to access the Site:

Go to Donlin Gold Project EIS Team

On the left hand column look for "Preliminary FEIS" under the heading "Recent." This will take you to all the documents and the EPA Comment Table. The documents are organized by Chapters. Documents for *Chapter 3 Environmental Analysis and Appendices* are organized in file folders. Most documents you will be reviewing are in Chapter 3, which includes the sections on wetlands, air and water quality, surface/groundwater hydrology, wetlands, human health, environmental justice, etc. Certain documents are quite large, so may take time to download. Please be patient.

I encourage you to review *Chapter 3/Section 3.0 Approach and Methodology* (10 pages), which explains how the environmental analysis was developed.

As a reminder, *Chapter 3/Sections 3.19 Environmental Justice, 3.21 Subsistence, and 3.22 Human Health* will not be available for review/comment until after July 28 due to the incorporation of new information from the recently developed Human Health Risk Assessment.

Comment Analysis Report (CAR). For those reviewers who provided comments on the Draft EIS, I encourage you to review the *Draft Comment Analysis Report (CAR) PFEIS*, which provides responses to all public comments and how/where the comment was addressed in the PFEIS. If your comment was not adequately addressed, then I recommend that you provide your comment/recommendation in the EPA Comment Table either under *Appendix X. Comment Analysis Report* or reiterate the comment under the appropriate section.

EPA Comment Table. Click on the *EPA Comment Table* in MSWord. On the top tool bar, click "Edit Document" and "Edit in Word." On the first row, I have provided an example of what/how to enter your comment under each column. If you are familiar with MSWord tables, to add additional rows for comments, go to the upper right hand tab "Layout" and either "Insert Below" or "Insert Above" depending on where your cursor is located. Remember to save your work by using the "File" tab on the upper left hand corner and "Save." You can X out of the document to close out and your last saved work will be accepted on the SharePoint Site.

Our internal comment deadline is **COB Wednesday, August 30**. If you need additional time, let me know.

I would like to provide you with some suggestions on how to conduct your review/comment of the Donlin Gold Project PFEIS:

- Focus comments on EPA's authorities and expertise – programmatic and technical;
- Consider the tone, word choice, and language of your comment(s) - be professional, clear, and concise. Keep sentences short and direct;
- Provide objective comments based on technical merit that add value, inform, offer expertise, and assists in the federal decision-making. Refrain from advocating a certain position without appropriate supporting data/information;
- Whenever possible, start your comment(s) with "I recommend," "we recommend," "EPA recommends,"...
- Whenever possible, provide recommendation(s) on how the document could be improved based on your comment. Identify additional project design features, mitigation measures and/or best management practices to address your comment and to avoid and/or minimize project environmental impacts;
- Keep your language positive and avoid negativity. Identify what is needed to correct the problem rather than focus on what was done wrong.
- Avoid commenting on minor grammatical error or writing style. Provide feedback and constructive suggestions if it results in clarifying information and/or identifying major errors or omissions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and/or if you need assistance in navigating through the SharePoint Site.

Thank you for your time! Hope you are enjoying your summer!

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